

group consisting of estradiol, estradiol sulfamates, estradiol valerate, estradiol benzoate, ethinyl estradiol, estrone, estriol, estriol succinate and conjugated estrogens, including conjugated equine estrogens such as estrone sulfate, 17 β -estradiol sulfate, 17 α -estradiol sulfate, equilin sulfate, 17 β -dihydroequilin sulfate, 17 α -dihydroequilin sulfate, equilenin sulfate, 17 β -dihydroequilenin sulfate and 17 α -dihydroequilenin sulfate or mixtures thereof.

89. (Amended) A pharmaceutical composition comprising

as a first active agent estradiol in amounts corresponding to a daily dose of 1 to 3 mg to treat diseases, disorders and symptoms associated with deficient endogenous levels of estrogen in women,

and as a second active agent 6 β ,7 β ;15 β ;16 β -dimethylene-3-oxo-17 α -preg-4-ene-21,17-carbolactone (drospirenone) in amounts corresponding to a daily dose of 1 to 3.5 mg to protect the endometrium from the adverse effects of estrogen, together with a pharmaceutically acceptable excipient or carrier.

94. (Amended) A method according to claim 90, wherein the estrogen is selected from the group consisting of estrogen is selected from the group consisting of estradiol, estradiol sulfamates, estradiol valerate, estradiol benzoate, ethinyl estradiol, estrone, estriol, estriol succinate and conjugated estrogens, including conjugated equine estrogens such as estrone sulfate, 17 β -estradiol sulfate, 17 α -estradiol sulfate, equilin sulfate, 17 β -dihydroequilin sulfate, 17 α -dihydroequilin sulfate, equilenin sulfate, 17 β -dihydroequilenin sulfate and 17 α -dihydroequilenin sulfate or mixtures thereof.